Scam in IOC, Panipat

† 2484. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Bhartiya Tel Nigam Panipat Main Huca Ghaple Ki Jaanch Report Do varsh sc Thandc Baste Main" which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi dated the 8th March. 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken on the inquiry of Vigilance Department so far; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) On receipt of Vigilance Investigation Report relating to award of contract for mechanical jobs of Hydro-cracker Unit/Hydrogen Unit at Panipat refinery, departmental enquiries have been instituted against eight officers of the refinery. The enquiries arc being conducted by Commissioner for Departmental Inquiries of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). During April, 2001 the police has filed challan against M/s Gayatari Engineering and the Chief Project Manager in the Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Panipat. M/s Gayatari Engineering Company was put on holiday list during February, 2000 and all dues payable to them have been withheld by IOCL.

Functioning of OIDB

2485. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the role and purpose of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) in the oil industry;

(b) whether after APM dismantling the OIDB will continue to exist;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether OIDB benefits will cover private sector also; and

(d) if so, the changes proposed in the functioning of the OIDB and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) has been established under Oil Industry Development Act, 1974 for the development of Oil Industry. The purposes for which the financial and other assistance can be given by the Board *inter-alia* includes all activities by way of prospecting or exploring for or production of mineral oil, refining — processing — transportation, storage, handling and marketing of mineral oil, production and marketing of all products, down-stream of oil refinery and the production of fertilizers and pctro-chcmicals and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

OIDB would continue to render the assistance for the above purpose even after dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). Funding towards oil sector projects arc decided by OIDB on case to case basis, subject to the priorities determined by the Board from time to time.

British Gas's offer for Panna-Mukta and Tapti Fields

2486. SHRI CP. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has turned down British Gas's offer for operatorship of the Panna-Mukta and Tapti Oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any other offer for providing operatorship of these oil & gas fields arc under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof: and

(e) the time by which it is going to be finalised?